Dear Jim, 9/24/74

Because it is certain that if Bud responds to my suggestion that there is a way of doing something about the Nixon tapes he will not as he did to you, I think that again I owe it to the future to leave a record. There have been many opportunities missed, many ruined. Too many avoidable failures.

What he told you is, approximately, Harold will get out of this what I do.

There is no aspect in which this is true and the inference that I asked a penny of him is false. I didn't and I never have.

Nor did the suggestion I made, which somehow lawyers thing proper for lawyers but for no others, have any suggestion of personal gain or income for me.

Next week he will be off on another of his feequent and fine vacations. You and I will be doing his work -without pay - on the Ray case. For me this means I will again hqve to lay aside work on a book I was able to resume only this morning. For both of us it means anything but a vacation.

No, there is not the same in it for me that there is for him. Or for you.

You know enough of what I have in mind to have offered the opinion that it may be the right approach. I have heard of no other and I have seen no awareness of recognition of this, which is to say a combination of existing records and precedents not of the kind a lawyer finds in his standard sources.

You and I did not inherit wealth so that we can afford to do pro bono work.

He has not learned from the Bennett business, where because he was taking depositions he could have done much, I think break the whole Watergate case at the outset.

Then and now there were associates who had much to gain the means to pay their way and, in fact, personal gain from the outcome.

I know of no reason why I should do anything free for any of them.

Of of any services rendered for them that they don't pay for and don't expect to pay for and in this instance are not paying for or have not.

Bud's record in these matters is getting too consistent for me to be comfortable with an ego explanation only especially because in each case he twists it so.If I do not have a better one, this one does not seem to explain all that needs explaining.

The thing he longs for, of course, is fame. He hasn't the ability to earn it. The work he does on those cases which get him attention is not his and while he pays for other work, he has not paid for that. The crazy part about the whole thing is that he has done all a man capable of passing the bars can do to mess up all his opportunities for fame. By this I mean accomplishment for which he could and would have received credit without the work being his.

This also is not the same thing he and I "get" out of it.

I take this whole corruption as an intended personal insult. It will make no difference in what I will do on the Ray case.

But the future will be different.